



THE YOUNG RULER OF THE WORLD

(Charles V Begins His Reign Over Europe by a Procession in Antwerp)

From a painting by the Austrian master, Hans Makart

MAXIMILIAN of Austria was kept fighting all his life to retain the Netherlands and his other kingdoms. He finally made them secure for his little son Philip, or rather, since Philip died young, for Philip's little son Charles. Philip had married a princess of Spain, so Spain too and all its new-found world of America became part of the heritage of the baby Charles. The child was thus born to be absolute lord over more territory, if we include his American possessions, than any other sovereign before or since. He was later elected Emperor of Germany also, as Charles V, and so became the chief sovereign of Europe.

His connection with the Netherlands was more intimate than with any other portion of his vast domains. In the first place, he was born there, born in Ghent in 1500. In the next place, as the enormous wealth of his future possessions was already recognized, the wealthy Flemings eagerly accepted him as one of themselves. They ignored his Austrian fatherhood and Spanish motherhood, and declaring the babe a Fleming, they welcomed him with pride. Brought up in Ghent, Charles spoke the tongue of Flanders and wore its garb. Moreover, he succeeded to supreme authority here before he did in any other country. As a lad of fifteen he was declared ruler of the Netherlands, and entered the city of Antwerp and thence passed to the other cities in royal procession. He was welcomed with every sort of pageant and with figures of allegorical splendor.









THE WORLD RULER GROWN OLD

(Charles V Listening to the Songs of the Flemish Girl Barbara)

From a painting by the Flemish artist, W. Geets

THE reign of Charles V covered the period of Europe's great religious upheaval, known as the Reformation.

The rulers of the time took easily for granted the idea that the right which they had assumed over their subjects' property and lives conveyed also the right to dictate the subject's religion. Hence Charles V was kept so busy quarreling in his other domains that he had little time to devote to the Netherlands. Yet among all his many peoples the Netherlands were the most loyal and the most obedient. They really loved him as one of themselves. Their reward was that, beyond sending them occasional orders about religious "heresy" and innumerable calls for money to pay his armies in other lands, Charles left the Netherlands almost entirely to their own government.

As to the money, the city burghers could afford to pay. So rich were they that they contributed to Charles' income almost as much as all his world beside. As to religion, the weight of his hand did not at first touch them heavily. When Charles was old and disheartened over what he considered the ingratitude of all the rest of his subjects, he came back to dwell among the people of his birthplace, Ghent. A young Flemish girl, Barbara Bloomberg, became his favorite companion, and he would sit for hours like any other world-worn old burgher, forgetting his many cares in listening to the music of her voice.









SPAIN AND HOLLAND PART

(King Philip II Parts in Anger From Young William the Silent, Holland's Champion)

From a drawing in 1891 by Herman King

POOR old Charles V grew so disheartened over trying to regulate the world that he abdicated at last and gave half of his domains, including Spain and the Netherlands, to his son, King Philip II of Spain. Unfortunately the harmony which had existed between Charles V and his Flemings did not extend to Philip. Charles had been a Fleming himself, Philip was a thorough Spaniard. Under him the religious "Inquisition" became a horror in the Netherlands, and hounded the people into their great rebellion.

Their leader in this tremendous struggle was the chief of their nobles, William, the ruler of the little principality of Orange, known to history as the celebrated William the Silent. King Philip resenting the independent spirit of the Netherlands, plotted to crush them with his armies. But as he himself was leaving for Spain, the Netherlands, inspired by William, courteously insisted on the king's taking his Spanish army with him. Philip's plans were not yet matured for his attack, so he withdrew his army with feigned willingness. He could not, however, wholly restrain his temper. His keen mind saw clearly that it was Prince William who had maneuvered his defeat, and our picture shows the noted incident of their parting. As William made his dutiful farewells to the departing monarch, Philip seized him by the wrist and flashed out a warning that he knew what the young prince had done and meant to make him pay for it.









THE FEAR OF KING PHILIP

(The Netherlands Flee Philip's Vengeance Despite His Sister's Promises)

From a painting in 1899 by Herman Grimm

FROM Spain, the center of his power, King Philip II kept sending orders to the Netherlands urging his ministers there to ever sterner and sterner cruelty. Especially did the "Inquisition" become a horror of robbery and murder. At length the people of many towns refused obedience to Philip's orders. The great revolt of the Netherlands thus began in 1566. As yet the people were divided; many clung to the side of the government. They fought among themselves, and then King Philip sent conciliatory orders promising to withdraw all objectionable laws and pardon everybody. Some of the Netherlands believed and trusted him; some did not. He had deceived everybody so often before, that the wonder was he could still win faith anywhere.

The active fighting ceased; but a strange and memorable scene occurred. Thousands upon thousands of the rebels, instead of waiting for Philip's envoys of peace and pardon, left the country. Long trains of them marched away, carrying with them their families and all their possessions. Philip's regent in the Netherlands at the time was his half-sister, Margaret of Parma. She was a well-meaning woman, who seems to have really believed in her brother's promised leniency. Riding forth to meet the caravans of emigrants, she entreated them to remain, urged on them the folly and the hardships of their flight, and added her word to Philip's that they should be safe. The emigrants listened to her coldly, shook their heads in silence, and passed on out of the Netherlands to Germany.









ALVA'S "COUNCIL OF BLOOD"

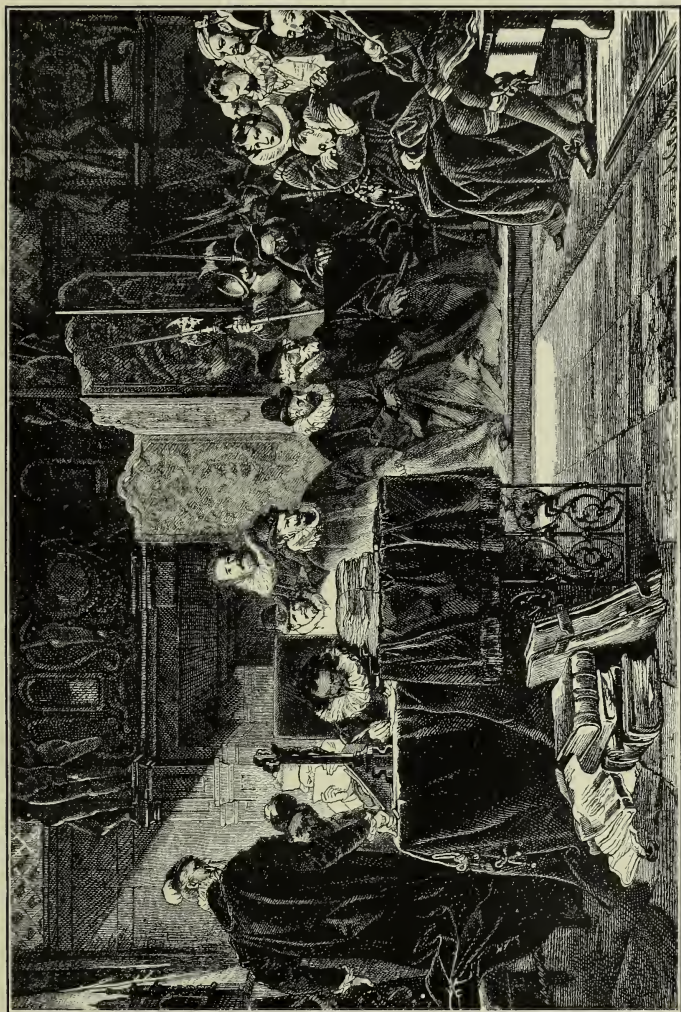
(The Terrible Duke Condemns the Netherlanders to Death)

From a painting by the German artist, G. A. Closs

THE fugitives from the Netherlands had well divined the grim purposes of King Philip. All authority in the Netherlands was now handed over to the able but terrible Duke of Alva. He entered the provinces with a Spanish army. He listened to the welcoming speeches of the cities with open scorn. He ordered the arrest of every person who had taken any part in the late revolt; and he established a council of creatures of his own, which tried each one of his prisoners on the charge of treason to King Philip.

This hideous council soon became known as the "Council of Blood." The Netherlands ran red with the blood of thousands of its best citizens. Margaret of Parma tried to save the victims, insisted that her word to them must be kept, though Philip's might be broken. Alva, acting under Philip's orders, swept her aside, and she retired in despair and horror to a convent. Alva and his master held the situation wholly in their hands, and they meant to crush the Netherlands into a submission utterly abject. Financially the country was ruined. Its trade, the source of all its wealth, disappeared. Margaret had sent word to King Philip that he would find himself ruling only over a desert. In part at least she was right. This region, which had been the main source of all Charles V's wealth, became to Philip a constant expense. Alva taxed and confiscated and killed: but there was no longer any money in the land, and he could not gather enough even to pay the expenses of his army.









ALVA'S DOWNFALL

(Dragging the Tyrant's Statue Through the Streets of Antwerp) .

*From a painting now in the Antwerp Museum, by the Flemish artist,
Charles Verlat*

FOR eight years the awful tyranny of Alva desolated the Netherlands. The country was only saved from him by those exiles who had fled before his coming. Chief of these exiles was Prince William of Orange. He organized them into an army and led them back to fight for their homes and the rescue of their countrymen. Often they were defeated, for Alva was really a great general; but still they fought on in their desperation. Many of them had owned ships, and they gathered a strong navy, against which the Spaniards could not compete. These wandering, homeless "sea-beggars" saved their country. They gradually won control of all the northern provinces. City after city drove out its Spanish garrison and declared for William of Orange. He was made governor of Holland and Zealand, the provinces most surrounded by water and therefore open to the "sea-beggars." There were glorious heroic struggles at Haarlem, Leyden and other towns, until William held all the north and Alva the south. Then King Philip decided that Alva had failed, that severity was too expensive a policy in the Netherlands; so he recalled the terrible Duke and sent a "conciliatory" regent in his stead.

The moment Alva's back was turned the people roused to vent upon him their fury of execration. He had made Antwerp the chief city of the south, but even in Antwerp a mob tore down his statue and dragged it through the streets with every insult.







THE "SPANISH FURY"

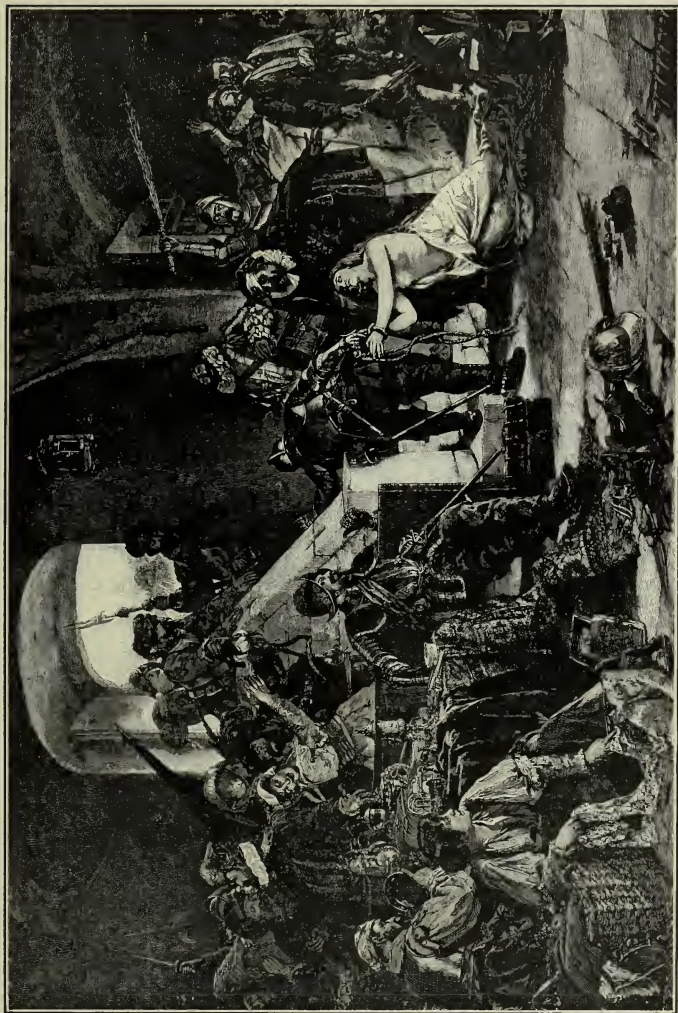
(The Unpaid Spanish Soldiers Ravage the Netherlands for Themselves)

From a painting by the Flemish artist, K. Ooms

THE first fruits of Alva's downfall and King Philip's policy of conciliation were even more horrible than the previous severity. Alva had at least been a strong man who kept his own soldiers under control. He had no money to pay them, their wages were in arrears for years; but against Alva they dared not revolt. Scarcely was his iron hand withdrawn when the soldiers became clamorous for pay. At length they declared they would pay themselves and began ravaging the cities. All over the southern Netherlands they burst into most awful horrors of plunder and brutality. In Antwerp, which Alva had specially protected, their devastation was the most terrible of all. This outbreak was called the "Spanish Fury."

It was stopped by the "conciliatory" Spanish regent. The revolting troops were paid off and hurried home to Spain, and the southern Netherlands were again allowed some extent of self-government. This was possible because of Alva's bloody work. He had killed off every man of the south who dared protest. Only the most devoted Catholics remained, the souls most wholly submissive to authority. Thus the survivors in the southern Netherlands were actually ready to war upon their former brethren of the north, who now stood compact and free under William of Orange.









THE DEATH OF WILLIAM THE FIRST

By the Rev. J. H. W. [Name], D.D., of the University of [Location].
Published by [Publisher's Name], [Location].

THE DEATH OF WILLIAM THE FIRST, King of England, is a subject of great interest to the student of English history. The reign of this monarch, who was crowned in 1155, was marked by a series of events which led to the establishment of the English monarchy as a permanent institution. The death of William the First, which occurred in 1183, was a significant event in the history of the country, and it is the purpose of this work to describe the circumstances of his death and the events which followed.

The death of William the First was the result of a long and arduous reign. He had spent many years in the field, fighting battles and conquering lands. His health had been gradually declining for some time, and he was now in a state of great weakness. He was unable to perform his duties as a monarch, and he was confined to his bed. His death was a great loss to the country, and it was a subject of great interest to the people.

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DEATH OF WILLIAM THE SILENT

(An Assassin from King Philip Slays Holland's Great Chieftain)

From a painting by the German artist, W. Lindenschmidt

THE struggle against Philip's tyranny split the Netherlands in twain. For centuries after this tremendous contest, men spoke of two Netherlands. The southern or "Spanish Netherlands" remained a Catholic province. The northern region became the independent Protestant republic of Holland.

This definite assumption of the form and name of a republic was gradual in the north. At first there were seven separate provinces there, of which Holland was merely the strongest. William of Orange was its "Stadtholder," an office far more like that of a permanent king than of an elected president. Moreover, William and his followers kept offering the kingship of their land to France, to England, and to other states or princes, to any one, in short, who could protect them against Spain. But one royal ruler after another failed them. They could rely only upon themselves and the genius of their great chieftains.

The Spaniards came to believe that in William lay the whole heart and strength of the revolution. King Philip hired assassin after assassin to slay this "chief foe of the Church." William was zealously guarded by his people, and one attempt after another was defeated by their vigilance. At last, however, in 1584, he was shot on the stairway of his home in Delft and perished there amid his weeping friends.







SPANISH RULE IN THE SOUTH

(Isabella of Austria Frees Her Political Prisoners)

From a painting by P. J. van der Ouderaa

FOR over two centuries after the division of the Netherlands into north and south, the history of the southern or "Spanish" provinces is one of peace, and even of prosperity. King Philip, taught by costly experience that these provinces could only be made profitable by according them a certain amount of liberty of trade and self-government, erected the Spanish Netherlands into a semi-independent state. It became a sort of minor kingdom, a family heritage wherein younger sons and daughters of King Philip's Hapsburg race first learned and exercised the art of government.

This kingdom was first conferred on Philip's daughter Isabella and her husband the Duke of Austria. Isabella and her consort made a triumphal journey from city to city; and as evidence of her intent to be a friend and protector to her people, Isabella in each city liberated all the political prisoners. Moreover, this time the Spanish promise was kept. The cities really flourished under Isabella. Something of their trade revived, their wealth came back. They grew prosperous, and cultivated the arts. Rubens, the great Flemish painter, arose, and others scarcely less noteworthy. The people, governed in kindness, became apathetic and content.









ROYALTY AND THE REPUBLICANS

(The Soldiers of Louis XIV Burst with Cruel Ravage Upon Holland to Avenge His Dignity)

From an antique drawing by Romain de Hooghe

THE people of Holland had no such easy life as that of their former brethren further south. The Hollanders had made themselves independent; and thus freed of kingly tyranny they became a mighty nation. Their unrestricted trade brought to them the wealth of the world. They established colonies in the far East, which they still possess. They fought great naval wars, matching themselves on an equality with all the might of England. They were feared, and their favor was courted. Yet the kings of Europe could never forgive them for being a republic. It was forever galling to those haughty monarchs to have to deal on equal terms with "tradesfolk."

At length, in 1672, Louis XIV of France in the first splendor of his power declared that the Hollanders had insulted his dignity. For this "worthy cause" he suddenly hurled an army into their unprepared domains to plunder and slay, until "dignity" should be consoled by sufficient murders. Holland was driven to the point of despair, and only saved herself from complete conquest by the desperate expedient of opening her dykes and drowning her own land. This drove the Frenchmen back; and the Dutch leader William III married an English wife, got himself made King of England and defeated Louis in the end. He won his triumph, however, as an English leader. Exhausted Holland sank back to a minor place in Europe's warfare.







QUEEN WILHELMINA'S WEDDING

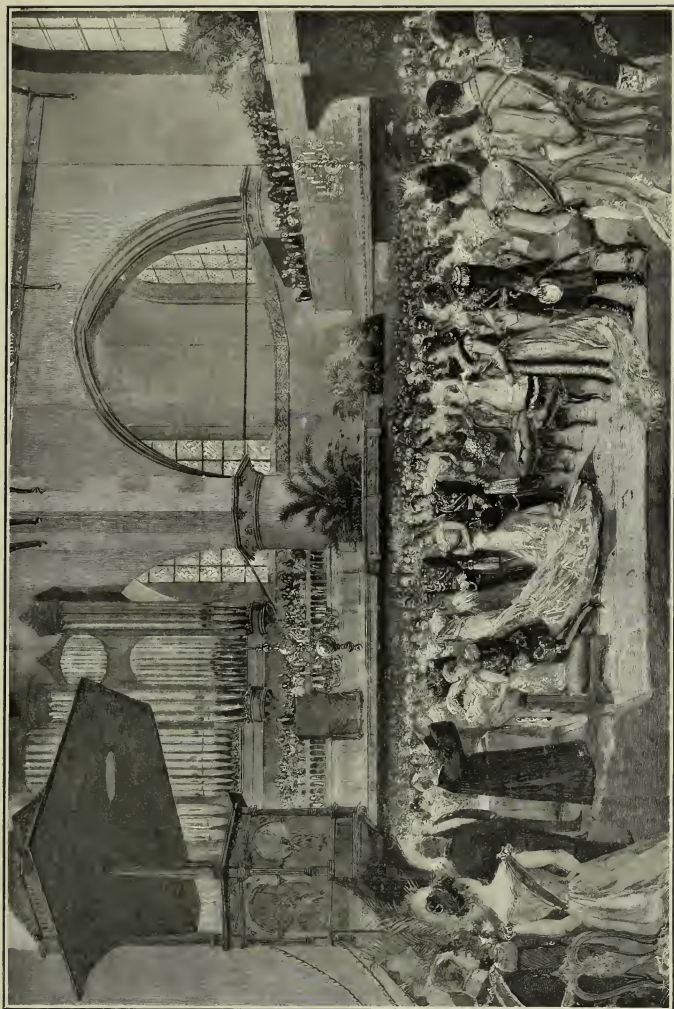
(The Queen Amid the Prayers of Her People Weds the German Duke Henry)

From a painting on the spot by E. Limmer

WHEN all Europe was reconstructed after the upheaval of Napoleon's days, the Netherlands were erected into a little independent kingdom under Holland's rule. The southern Catholic provinces, however, had been so long estranged from the north that they insisted on a separate independence and fought for it. Thus the Netherlands became divided into Holland and Belgium. The existence of these two little kingdoms is guaranteed by the great Powers of Europe, so that they give every promise of remaining as permanent states.

Holland, more accustomed to self-government and with its proud traditions of liberty behind it, has been the more successful state of the two. Its monarchs are descended from the celebrated family of William the Silent, and are deeply loved and trusted by their people. The present queen, Wilhelmina, came to the throne as a young child in 1890. Her people urged her to marry, so as to perpetuate their beloved race of rulers; and in 1901 Wilhelmina made choice of a German prince for her husband, Duke Henry of Mecklenburg. The pair were wedded in the great church of The Hague surrounded by all Wilhelmina's devoted subjects. There is no country in Europe whose people seem more happy, prosperous and well-content.







THE BELGIAN LABOR TROUBLES

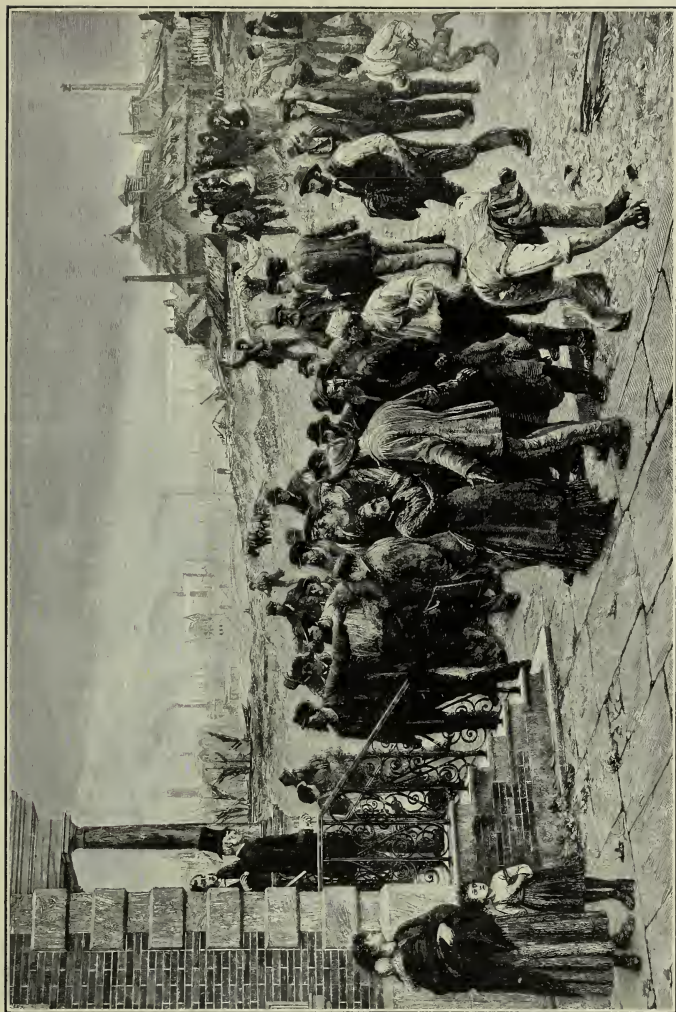
(The Belgians Demand "One Man, One Vote" and Refuse to Listen to the Arguments of Capital)

From a painting by Robert Kohler

THE recent career of Belgium has been less happy than that of her sister kingdom. Having no hereditary sovereigns of their own, the Belgians necessarily chose a foreign king, a German; and his descendants have never won the confidence and devotion of their people, as have the royal race of Holland. Hence there has been in Belgium no ameliorating influence to soften the modern clash of classes, aristocracy against democracy, the rich against the poor. In Belgium, labor troubles have taken a hard and bitter course. There have been many strikes, and in 1912-13 there arose great strikes, which were political rather than financial.

Belgium has long had a system of "plural voting," that is, men of wealth, position or education have two or three votes apiece. This has enabled the upper classes to retain power in all elections; and at last the laborers have reached the point of refusing to submit. Their Civil War has not been carried on, as in old times, by bullets, but by strikes. These cost Capital just as much, and cannot be so readily suppressed by armed force. Thus the strife of Capital and Labor in Belgium holds the attention of all the world. Warfare seems passing out of military hands, discarding military weapons and entering the field of economic strife.





The outbreak was not even under way when Charles learned of it; and hastening from Spain, he gathered his Imperial armies and advanced into the city. For a month, he gave the burghers no warning of what he intended. Then he suddenly declared that the unhappy metropolis had forfeited all its rights and privileges whatsoever. The leaders of the recent movement were seized and executed; all the communal property of the city and of the guilds was confiscated; and the tribute demanded of the citizens was heavily increased. The great bell "Roland" used through all the heroic struggles of Ghent to summon the people hastily together, the palladium of their liberties, was removed from its tower. The people were to assemble for conference no more. Having gone thus far and ruined Ghent, Charles forgave its contemplated rebellion because, as he explained, he had been born there.

It is not however, to Charles alone that we must attribute the decay of Ghent and the other Flemish cities. Natural causes were at work. The discovery of America was shifting the commercial routes of the world. England had learned to turn her wool into cloth in manufactories of her own. Above all, the Low Countries were, as we have said, still unfinished by the hand of Nature. Gradually the rivers of Flanders were extending their mudbanks into the sea, choking up their own courses with shallow bars. Ships, moreover, were increasing in size. Bruges ceased to be available as a seaport. Ghent also lost much of its trade. By degrees, instead of Ghent and Bruges, we hear talk of Brussels and Antwerp. Thither the merchants removed with their ships and storehouses; and thither the nobles followed, and the artists, and the kings.

The new cities, upheld by imperial favor, inclined to be far more submissive to Charles than were their more ancient rivals. Yet it was from these new cities and their merchants that sprang up the final, great and celebrated "rebellion of the Netherlands," the heroic story which we now approach.



MEDAL OF THE "BEGGARS"

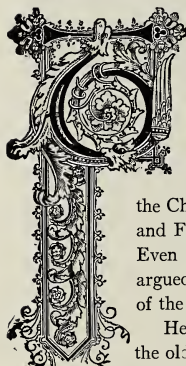


MARGARET OF PARMA RECEIVES THE "BEGGARS'" PETITION

Chapter V

THE GREAT REBELLION

[*Authorities:* As before, also Schiller, "Revolt of the Netherlands"; Versteeg, "The Sea Beggars"; Motley, "Rise of the Dutch Republic"; Prescott, "Reign of Philip II."]



THE era of Charles V was the era of the Reformation, and it was this religious upheaval that led to the great Netherland revolt. Yet the Netherlanders were not as a rule enthusiastic in the support of Luther. The attitude of Erasmus, the Dutch scholar of Rotterdam, the most learned writer of his time, may be taken as typical of that of his countrymen. They desired reform within the Church, not a violent breaking away from it. Most of the Dutch and Flemish churchmen were agreed that changes should be made. Even Charles V himself was convinced of this. Thoughtful men argued freely among themselves as to what should be the character of the reforms which seemed clearly at hand.

Hence the more violent attitude of those who would destroy the old Church altogether, found little sympathy in the Netherlands, except among the ignorant and the evil. A sect calling themselves Anabaptists sprang up in Holland, but committed such extravagances and atrocities that they were put down by the Dutch burghers themselves, men the most tolerant of their age to every form of religious faith. The "inquisition" as it was called, which examined into the beliefs of men, remained as it had existed for centuries, a duty of the civil magistrates. These continued their work as before, executing an occasional victim for heresy, as they would for any other crime, when they felt that public order positively demanded it.

In 1550 however, Charles determined that his civil magistrates were too lax

against this ever-increasing heresy. Lutheranism was robbing him of his power in Germany; he would take no risk of its gaining permanent root in the Netherlands. Hence he introduced there a form of Inquisition conducted by churchmen instead of civilians. This had already crushed out heresy in his Spanish domains; and, as the easy going Dutch and Flemish prelates seemed to him too mild, he brought Spanish Inquisitors to introduce their sterner judgments and crueler tortures. The Netherlands were alarmed; they protested; a rigid, uncompromising Spanish priest might easily call every one of them a heretic. Yet they disapproved actual rebellion against the Church; they liked Charles; and so they submitted, though unwillingly. The Inquisitors began work; and though for some years they confined themselves to slaughtering the more extreme reformers, yet the stream of blood expanded into awful volume. Estimates disagree widely as to the number of these executions during the reign of Charles. They have been set as low as a single thousand, and as high as a hundred thousand.

Despite the persecution, the Emperor himself, the hearty, good-natured comrade, "one of themselves" as the Flemish burghers called him, retained his popularity in the Netherlands, and looked upon the country with a friendly eye. When, worn out with his life of toil, he resolved to abandon all his many thrones, Brussels, which he had made the capital of the Low Countries, was the city he selected for the ceremony of abdication.

As he closed his farewell speech to his "well-beloved subjects," the listening multitude were moved to honest tears, regretted their rebellions, and pledged themselves readily to be loyal to the son of this kindly monarch. That son, a youth of twenty-eight, afterward the celebrated Philip II of Spain, then arose to address the "Estates," and, speaking through an interpreter, promised to be even more devoted than his father to the interests of the Netherlands. The millennium of peace and mutual good will seemed surely to have arrived.

Probably no one of all those present suspected the terrible war that was to come. Philip himself, secret and subtle, knowing his own heart, may have seen nearest to the truth; but what Philip did not know was the sturdy spirit of these Netherlands, whom he counted on crushing into submission to his will. Therein lay Philip's blunder. Unlike his father he had been neither born nor bred in Flanders. He was a Spaniard through and through. His haughtiness took constant offense at the free manners of the Flemings, and he hated as much as he despised them. Charles had ruled them through their own officials; he had even placed some of his trusted Netherland nobles in high position in Spain. Philip, despite his father's warning, reversed this and brought his Spanish associates to govern the unruly lowlands.

For a time all seemed well. The young sovereign promised many reforms. There was a war with France, and a great victory at St. Quentin (1557), due largely

to Flemish troops and to the brilliancy of their general, Count Egmont. A year later Egmont and his Flemish cavalry crushed another French army at Gravelines. The enemy was forced to a humiliating peace; and one of the secret articles of the treaty between Philip and the French king was that all the military forces of the latter were to be loaned to Spain, if needed to crush revolt in the Netherlands. Thus did their new sovereign measure and reward the loyalty of his people.

Here enters into the tale William, Prince of Orange, called William the Silent, the great antagonist of Philip. He ranked at the time with Egmont among the chief nobles of the Netherlands, and so high was his repute for ability that though only twenty-two at the time of Charles V's abdication, he had already become that monarch's most trusted counsellor. Indeed Charles, disappointed in his own son, who constantly opposed and defied him, had made the young Dutch noble in some sort a protégé, introduced him to the most secret interviews of state, and trained him in the methods of diplomacy. It was on the shoulders of this youthful counsellor, already nicknamed "the silent," that Charles leaned as he made his abdication speech; and the loyalty which William had given the father he seemed ready to transfer to the son. Philip, as we know, trusted no one; but the French king, not realizing this and seeing William apparently high in his sovereign's confidence, talked freely to the young man of the secret treaty against the Netherlands. The silent William, true to his name, listened without comment, and so learned of the destruction intended for his country.

Still he gave no sign, but continued on every occasion to proffer Philip wise and temperate advice, which was little heeded. In 1558 Philip, leaving the Netherlands for Spain, appointed as regent Margaret of Parma, his half-sister, an illegitimate daughter of his father. The departing sovereign had planned a trap for the "States-General"; he hoped that body, lulled by his professions of good will, would resign all its powers to Margaret until his return. Thus through his regent he would be able to rule as an absolute monarch, unrestrained by a protesting assembly. Instead the States-General, at William's suggestion, urged Philip to withdraw all the Spanish troops which upon one pretext and another he had quartered upon the country to overawe it.

Philip unprepared as yet to face open revolt, yielded with such grace as he could; but for one moment, as he stepped on shipboard, his wrath flamed out in his celebrated last interview with William. "It is you who have done this," he said, gripping the young Prince of Orange by the arm. "Nay, it is the States-General," responded William. "No," flashed out Philip, using an untranslatable form of address, insolent and contemptuous, "it is you, you, you!" Keen of insight as always, he knew that if strife came, it was not with a confused and many-headed States-General he would have to deal, but with this one composed and self-reliant youth.

The strife soon came. From the safe distance of Spain, Philip sent word to the Netherland Inquisitors to increase their severity. He also commanded Margaret, his regent, to ignore the advices of the States-General and the charters of the people. A general protest arose, and grew more and more determined. Margaret, dreading the consequence, entreated her brother to be more lenient; and at his suggestion Count Egmont, the popular military leader, was sent to Spain to lay the matter more fully before him. The wily sovereign, seeking only delay, listened to Egmont's complaints with seriousness and apparent respect, promised to give heed to his mild advice, and then gave him to bear back to Brussels sealed letters which contained orders for yet greater cruelty (1565).

Open revolt now flared out at last. The magistrates in many places refused to obey the commands of the Inquisitors. A petition protesting against the king's orders was signed by thousands of prominent nobles, citizens, and even priests, and was presented to Margaret by the leaders of a vast procession representing every class of society. Trembling and distraught, the regent promised to do what she could.

"Are you afraid of these beggars?" demanded one of her courtiers, scornfully, referring not only to the rabble but to the lesser nobles among them, impoverished now that their ruler bestowed on them no favors. The sneer was repeated at a banquet held by many of the younger nobles who favored the revolt. Some cried out that they would accept the name thus given them in scorn. Their leader, De Brederode, promptly secured a beggar's bowl and wallet, and passing these around the tumultuous assembly swore to give up everything to the cause. The others joined him in the oath. William of Orange, Count Egmont, and Count Horn, another member of the more conservative nobility who were striving to keep peace between the court and the people, happened in upon the banquet and drank the toast that was going round, "Long live the Beggars." From this event (1566) is usually dated the great "Revolt of the Netherlands."

To trace all the windings of the struggle, describe all its heroic moments, would far exceed our space. There were a few minor contests between small forces of Beggars and Royalists; then William and Egmont succeeded in restoring a temporary peace, Margaret yielding to the demands of the insurgents for religious toleration. The Protestants, thus released from immediate danger, appeared everywhere in great numbers; they seemed suddenly a majority among the people. The "image-breaking" furor swept over the country. Bands of frenzied peasants burst into churches and cathedrals, desecrating and destroying every object of worship and of art. The nobility and the Catholic members of the Beggars sought to punish these excesses; and so dislike and distrust were sown among the various forces of rebellion. King Philip by many treacherous devices increased the mutual suspicion that spread among the Netherlands; and at the same time he despatched

to the country a Spanish army under his grim and terrible general, the Duke of Alva.

Then came the time for decision that tried men's souls. A united resistance might have held back the invaders; but few of the patriot leaders felt themselves compromised beyond hope of pardon. Count Egmont, having received from Philip letters of personal friendship and approval of his course, declared that he would again trust wholly to the sovereign who had deceived him; he would be loyal to the end, and oppose all rebellion. Count Horn took a similar attitude; and so high was the veneration in which these two were held that their course induced thousands of others to do the same. In vain did William of Orange plead with Egmont. "You will be the bridge," he told the somewhat pompous general, "over which the Spanish will enter our country." And he added with characteristic keenness, "Having entered, they will destroy the bridge."

Finding Egmont inflexible, and deeming resistance impossible without him, the Prince of Orange and his immediate associates withdrew into Germany. The two leaders parted amid tears, each lamenting what he considered the suicidal decision of the other.

"Farewell, landless Prince," said Egmont.

"Farewell, headless Count," responded William.

To the common people was also presented the same momentous problem, and while many took Egmont's course, many took William's. A hasty exodus began. Thousands fled to England; other thousands wended their way in long caravans across the German border. The regent Margaret entreated them to stay, she entreated Philip to recall his army. He would find himself ruling, she wrote, over naught but a desert. Finally on Alva's arrival, learning that his authority exceeded hers, she left the Netherlands in despair and retired to a religious life of quietude.

Alva and his army came (1567). The general received Egmont's welcoming speech with ominous scorn. His first public act was to summon the nobles to a general council, at which he arrested not only Egmont, but Horn and every other patriot who had ventured within his grasp, who had trusted Philip's promises. The Inquisition was revived in its most awful form. In addition to this a civil council was created to try the Netherlanders for treason. Its members were tools of Alva, and under his leadership the body soon became known by the frightful name, "the Council of Blood." It condemned thousands of patriots to the gibbet. It confiscated the estates of those who had fled. As soon as its authority was fully established, it sent Egmont and Horn the way of its other victims. They were beheaded in 1568.

Meanwhile the silent William seeing his forewarning so terribly fulfilled, had resolved upon new effort. All Europe was in protest against the horrors being

enacted in the Netherlands. The Emperor Maximilian II wrote to Philip, his nephew, warning him that such severity must produce a revolution of despair William raised an army. In addition to his exiled friends, he found thousands of volunteers, German, French and English, to assist him.

Even before the execution of Egmont, William invaded Brabant, while his brother Louis led a detachment into Friesland. Louis, after one victory, was defeated by Alva; but with William, Alva avoided a contest. There was clever maneuvering on both sides; then William, unable longer to support his army without funds, was obliged to disband it and withdraw. Alva returned unopposed to his executions and his extortions, to his Council of Blood.

For a time there was peace in the Netherlands, the peace of fear. Alva built a fortress in the heart of each great city and garrisoned these strongholds with Spanish troops. He increased his exactions; but his savagery had driven commerce from the Netherlands, and despite his every effort the provinces which had supplied two million ducats annually to the government of Charles V, now supplied to Philip less than their expenses. He had to send money from Spain wherewith to pay the sixty thousand troops who trampled the merchants under foot.

Naturally Alva was blamed for the deficiency; rumors became current that all taxes flowed into his capacious hands—and stayed there. Philip insisted that the Netherlands must pay for the troops. Taxes were doubled and redoubled; yet the troops remained unpaid. At last the merchants of Brussels, of the capital itself, situated under Alva's very eyes, refused him money. He could but hang them, they said, and payment had become impossible. The relentless duke erected gibbets before the doors of forty of the principal citizens. The order was given for the execution of each man in front of his own home. Then it was rescinded; for suddenly, not in Brussels but in distant Holland, the turning of the tide had come; the "revolution of despair" began, and even Alva saw that he must halt (1572).

The first success with which the Nederlanders now reopened their desperate war was gained by the "sea-beggars." These were a few scattered members of the "beggars'" conspiracy who, driven into exile, had become sea-robbers, roving vikings like the Norsemen of old. Many a ruined merchant joined them, with a ship saved from the destruction of his fortunes; and, urged on by hunger, the wanderers plundered the coasts of the unhappy Netherlands, or seized the treasure ships of Spain, fleeing for shelter to the ports of England or Germany. At length, yielding to King Philip's repeated protests, both the Emperor and Elizabeth of England excluded the sea-beggars from their ports. This, which seemed to portend the ruin of the sturdy patriot pirates, proved their salvation. They appeared suddenly before the town of Briel in Holland, captured it almost without resistance, and held it in the name of William of Orange. Before his

exile William had been governor or "Stadtholder" of Holland and Zealand; he was known to be still trying to raise funds for another army to rescue his people. Now the daring exploit of the sea-beggars was like a spark set to the waiting train. All the northern provinces flashed into revolt. City after city expelled its Spanish garrison and declared for Orange. They did not, be it noted, claim independence; those were days when "independence" was still an unknown word in the mouths of common folk. The cities still acknowledged Philip as their overlord; they merely rejected Alva, and declared that, under Philip, William was their rightful governor.

Alva, driven by necessity, made truce with the semi-rebellious merchants in Brussels, and hurried northward to check this vaster outbreak. For seven months Haarlem resisted a Spanish siege. William, enabled to raise another army at last, sought to relieve the city, but in vain. Haarlem surrendered to starvation in the summer of 1573. The city was plundered, and every man of its garrison was slaughtered. The next spring Louis of Nassau, William's brother and chief aid, was slain and the troops under his command totally defeated by Alva. Leyden, besieged in its turn by the advancing Spaniards, held out with desperate heroism through thirteen weary months. Starvation crept hideously close.

Then came relief. The defense of the northern sections lay in the hands of the assembly of Holland, the largest province. The only successes of the patriots had been on the ocean, where the "sea-beggars" had repeatedly defeated the Spanish ships; and now William urged upon the assembly that the dykes must be opened in order that the ships of the sea-beggars might sail over the submerged farms and rescue Leyden. After violent dispute and solemn deliberation this course was adopted. The ocean was unchained; its destructive power was made welcome; and, aided by a favoring storm, the ships swept up to the very walls of the despairing city. The Spaniards fled and Leyden was saved (1575).

This was the turning point of the heroic war. The assembly of Holland asked the citizens of Leyden to name their own reward for the service their long resistance had done the common cause; and the burghers, to their glory be it recorded, chose to have a University founded in their town. So rose the University of Leyden, the great centre of religious freedom in northern Europe.

Alva had failed. His influence over King Philip was lost; he was recalled. His successor tried to rule by mildness, but it was too late. The sea-beggars held the ocean. Trade, driven by taxation from the southern provinces, poured into the North. The men of Holland were triumphant in their success, determined in their resistance. They insisted on retaining William as their leader, and would listen to no terms of agreement which did not include self-taxation and complete religious toleration, terms wholly impossible to Philip's views.

The Spanish soldiers, unpaid for years, broke into open mutiny against their

leaders. Instead of marching against Holland, they plundered the submissive southern provinces. The "Spanish fury" swept over many cities, most notably Antwerp, which was seized by the mutineers and ravaged for three days with most hideous accompaniments of outrage and slaughter (1576). Driven by such miseries, the South joined the North in its resistance. The ancient privileges of Flanders and Brabant were once more insisted on, and a treaty of alliance, "the Pacification of Ghent," was arranged among all the "seventeen provinces" of the Netherlands.

In the face of this united opposition even Philip yielded, or at least he postponed the subjugation of the Low Countries to a more convenient period. He was completely bankrupt. He could neither pay his troops nor compel their obedience. No alternative was left him but submission. Another new governor was therefore sent to the Netherlands, Don John, the hero of Lepanto, most famous of the illegitimate children of Charles V. Don John agreed to the "Pacification of Ghent," agreed to everything. The Spanish soldiers were paid by the Southern provinces and marched for home.

For a time political intrigue superseded actual warfare. Don John endeavored to undermine the Prince of Orange. So also did the Flemish nobles, who were jealous of his power. But the common people everywhere learned to cling to him more and more, to see in him the one earnest patriot not to be duped by Spanish trickery, not to be bought by Spanish gold, nor even by promises of an almost imperial dignity. That these were offered him we now know from Spanish sources; but he remained true to his cause and his people. By these he was elected governor of Brabant as well as of the northern provinces; and finally he became the acknowledged leader of the entire Netherlands.

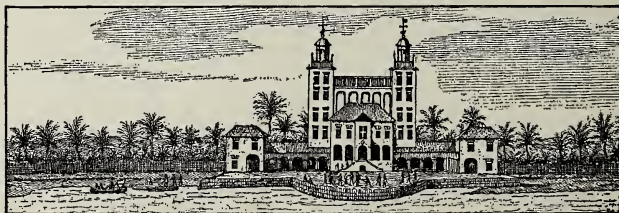
But even the genius of William could not keep the seventeen provinces in harmony. The South under Alva's stern hand had become thoroughly Catholic. Its revolt was only against its loss of liberty. The North on the contrary had become wholly Protestant, and William himself in the days of desperate struggle had openly adopted the new faith. "Calvus et Calvinista," he defined himself, "Plain and Protestant." Hence the northern provinces demanded from the South freedom of worship for themselves and their co-religionists; the southern provinces refused this. William, striving to keep peace, fell under suspicion from both parties. Soon Don John was able to raise a Catholic army against him. Once more there were victories and defeats. The Duke of Anjou, brother to the King of France, was invited by William and his adherents to become ruler of the Netherlands, that they might gain French assistance. This alliance so strengthened the Protestant party that Don John died of fever and disappointment, deserted even by Philip, who has been accused of poisoning him.

By 1580 the "Pacification of Ghent" had come to naught. The seven northern provinces had united themselves firmly into a single state under William's leader-

ship. Flanders also held with them, the citizens of Ghent and Bruges and the other towns being still somewhat inclined toward the new faith. So also were portions of Brabant; but the other southern provinces made peace with Philip, were promised protection in their privileges, and under a new Spanish governor they even began subscribing anew for Spanish troops to war against the North. In 1581, the Assembly of Holland finally took the decisive step of declaring Philip deposed for all his misgovernment. Then asserting its own right to select another king, the Assembly offered the nominal rank to the Duke of Anjou, while reserving the real authority to William.

So a Frenchman came to be King of the northern Netherlands, while the Spaniards still fought in the south. Soon the French ruler and his courtier followers found they had little real power, and no opening for wealth. They planned a conspiracy of their own, and suddenly attacked the Antwerpens in the street, trying to gain possession of the city. The "French fury" this outbreak was called, though it could bear no comparison with the horrors of the "Spanish fury." The Frenchmen were soon defeated, and with their feeble chief took refuge in France, where Anjou died.

The Spaniards meanwhile had begun a more subtle warfare. By fair promises they lured many of the prominent patriot leaders to their side. William was declared an outlaw, and a huge price was set upon his head. The Church promised to forgive all the sins of any man who could reach and slay him. Five separate times assassins, lured by the promise of earthly gain or spiritual reward, attempted William's life. His friends guarded him jealously, but at last a religious fanatic eluded their every precaution, reached William under pretense of being a messenger from France, and shot him down (1584). The freedom of Holland was sealed and consecrated in its founder's blood.



THE DUTCH CAPITAL IN THE WEST INDIES



THE DUTCH CAPITAL IN THE EAST INDIES

Chapter VI

GLORY AND DECAY OF HOLLAND

[*Authorities:* As before, also Motley, "Life and Death of John of Barneveldt"; Stirling-Maxwell, "Don John of Austria"; Butler, "Life of Grotius"; Traill, "William III."]]



PAIN had long predicted and confidently expected that the death of William of Orange would end the struggle in the Netherlands. Spanish grandees, even after all the years of heroic resistance, could not conceive of common people as acting for themselves, but persisted blindly in regarding them as the tools of a self-seeking aristocracy. The way in which William's sudden assassination was met, must have gone far to convince all Europe that these Dutch merchants were resolute as any knightly warrior and watchful as any courtly statesman. On the very day of the disaster, the Holland Council of State sent to each of its generals and absent members a grave and noble letter urging all to stand firm, since now the need of the land was greater than before.

The Netherlands had not yet realized either their own strength or Spain's increasing weakness. They despaired of being able to continue the strife alone, and despite their disastrous experience with the Duke of Anjou, they sent ambassadors to both France and England, entreating that the royal houses would supply them with a king. Henry III of France and Elizabeth of England both seemed to look with favor on these appeals; and trusting upon kingly promises, the Netherlands were slow in preparing for self-defense.

This reliance upon the exertions of others rather than upon themselves, re-

sulted in irreparable disaster, the loss of half the low countries to the cause of freedom. King Philip had at last secured a leader of real genius, Alexander, Prince of Parma, son of Margaret the former regent. Parma took advantage of the momentary lassitude of his foes. He acted while others stood at gaze. By threats and bribery and clever chicanery, he detached one southern city after another from what seemed a falling cause. Soon, in all Flanders and Brabant, Antwerp was the only important centre which held out against him. This he besieged with rare military skill. The city was headless, a turmoil of confused, excited, and incapable advisers. "It is easily seen," cried he, as he noted the lack of unity and wisdom in the defense, "that the Prince of Orange is dead."

Antwerp lies on the bank of the Scheldt, which in its breadth and turbulence is rather an arm of the sea than it is a river. Parma constructed a marvel of engineering skill, a bridge that blockaded the Scheldt and resisted all the storms and tides of winter. The men of Antwerp sought to destroy the bridge, to blow it up with powder ships. Failing in the effort, they were starved into surrender. The Protestant merchants were compelled to return to Catholicism, or else were given two years to wind up their affairs and leave the country. Most of them departed into exile even before the time appointed. In the southern Netherlands, the region which is Belgium to-day, the revolt was over. The land became definitely separated from the better defended provinces of the North, and sank back into the grasp of Spain.

Let us follow briefly the future of this conquered district, which was known thereafter as the "Spanish Netherlands." King Philip, grown wiser through disaster, encouraged the burghers' feeling of nationality by making their land a semi-independent state. He conferred the sovereignty upon his daughter, Isabella, and her husband, the Duke of Austria. The entrance of Isabella into each city of her domain was made a celebration of peace, and hundreds of unhappy political prisoners were given their release. The years that followed are known as the Austrian or Austro-Spanish period of Belgium's history.

Isabella and her husband made the Netherlands their permanent home, and so also did their successors. They encouraged trade, they became patrons of art. Rubens and other famous painters flourished under them. Belgium's prosperity gradually revived. For two hundred years the "Spanish Netherlands" remained a sort of family estate, conferred by the Hapsburg sovereigns of Austria and Spain upon the younger sons and daughters of the house. Its story during this period was uneventful; and upon the whole, for a people who had apparently lost all desire for self-government, the centuries were neither unhappy nor unprosperous.

Meanwhile, in the north, the war continued. Of the "Seven United Provinces" which still defied the might of Spain, Holland was by far the largest; and gradually its name came to be used for the entire land. Henry III of France refused the

sovereignty which the rebels offered him; but Queen Elizabeth sent them English troops and an English leader, her favorite, the Earl of Leicester. It was under Leicester that the celebrated Sir Philip Sidney took part in Holland's struggle and met his tragic death in the battle of Zutphen. The alliance of England with the Dutch had also much to do with King Philip's despatching the Spanish Armada against England, and Dutch ships took no small part in the succession of naval victories by which the Armada was destroyed. Its defeat meant fully as much to Holland as to England.

Gradually the scenes shift and the men; for this was a war of generations not of years. The Prince of Parma, unaided by Spain with either men or money, continued toiling at his impossible task of making armies out of nothing, until he died of despair. Leicester offended the Dutch burghers by his arrogance, and withdrew to England, as dissatisfied with them as they with him. Philip II also died; and his successor, Philip III, inherited the feeble struggle, inherited a bankrupt Spain exhausted of every military resource.

Only the "Seven Provinces" seemed to thrive upon the contest. The Protestant exiles from Belgium added to the population and wealth of the North, added also to the bitterness of the opposition against Spain. Unhampered by commercial restrictions at home, the Dutch became the masters of the carrying trade of the world. Their captains ventured even into the ports of Spain, and were welcomed there; for they brought food without which the improvident Spaniards must have starved. The daring visitors were accounted loyal subjects of King Philip—until they were out of harbor.

Their ships explored the earth and brought home wealth from every land. Spain and Portugal, temporarily united as a single state, claimed the sovereignty of America and Asia; but Dutch merchants ventured into the farthest Indies. In a celebrated contest off the coast of Malacca, a Dutch fleet manned by twelve hundred men defeated the entire Spanish navy of India, a force four times the size of the Dutch. The empire of Holland was thus established in the East, an empire of which she still retains some fragments after all the vicissitudes of three centuries of strife.

Two men rose to be leaders of Holland during this period of its expansion. One was John of Olden-Barneveldt, who stands among the purest patriots of any age, a statesman and financial genius. The other was Maurice of Nassau, younger son of the martyred William. Maurice became the chief military figure of the war. He originated a new system of siege and defense, by which he gradually forced back the Spaniards upon the frontier, capturing their fortresses one by one. As a general he was greater than his father, but as patriot and statesman he sank far lower. William had repeatedly been offered the kingship of the land, and had refused it. Maurice sought the high rank all his life, he schemed and

planned for it, and was refused. His chief opponent was the patriot Barneveldt, and at length Maurice so roused the people against their aged protector that Barneveldt was condemned and executed as a traitor (1619).

A reaction followed the excitement, and Maurice found himself farther than ever from his goal. He had long been governor or "Stadtholder" of the United Provinces; that was the highest he could rise. Fortune deserted him. The cause of freedom, stripped of the statesmanship and financial wisdom of Barneveldt, sank in the scale. Even those who had supported Maurice, began to point at him in horror. He died in 1625 a gloomy, disappointed man.

Still the war continued. From 1609 to 1620 there had been a truce in Europe, but in Asia the fighting was continued. Then the world-wide "Thirty Years' War" of Germany drew both Holland and Spain once more into the vortex of religious strife. Maurice was succeeded as Stadtholder by his younger brother Frederick Henry, who upheld the high reputation of his race. In 1628 the Dutch Admiral, Piet Heijn, captured the Spanish silver fleet and brought treasure worth millions of dollars into Holland. In 1639, Admiral Tromp attacked and completely destroyed a Spanish fleet of fifty ships in "the battle of the Downs" off England's coast. This completed the destruction of the vast navy of Spain, and raised the naval repute of Holland to the highest point.

The haughty house of Hapsburg, rulers of Spain and of the German Empire, saw their sea-power crushed by Holland and their armies exhausted by the Swedes in the German war. So at last the Emperor and the King of Spain, another Philip by this time, the fourth of the name, consented to the general peace of 1648, by which the entire independence of Holland was formally acknowledged. She took her place among the great Powers of Europe, not as a monarchy but as a republic. The house of Orange retained a very high authority as "Stadtholders," but the burghers had become fully accustomed to self-government. The States-General was the acknowledged authority of the land; and its members, dreaming of empire in the East, assumed all the airs of royalty. They officially styled themselves "The High and Mighty Lords."

No sooner however, was the peace with Spain completed than these High and Mighty Lords found themselves in conflict with another enemy. During the entire period of the "Eighty Years' War," England and the United Provinces had been the bulwarks of Protestantism against Catholic Spain; and their common interest had kept them more or less closely in alliance. As the commercial prosperity of Spain and Portugal grew less, that of England and Holland advanced with mighty strides. But now, with the complete downfall of the foe, the two conquerors were left to dispute over the spoils of victory, the merchant commerce of the world.

To any far-seeing eye, a business war between the two rivals, both keenly

grasping, both superbly self-confident, must have appeared inevitable. The quarrel grew rapidly. At length Admiral Blake in command of an English fleet fired a shot at a Dutch vessel; Admiral Tromp responded with a broadside; the memorable naval war began (1652). There were two years of desperate, deadly, glorious naval fights. On the whole the advantage was with the English, who had the heavier ships. But both Admiral Tromp and Admiral de Ruyter defended the Dutch coast with vigor and success, and won for themselves and their countrymen undying renown.

A peace was patched up in 1654, but the inevitable commercial antagonism led to a renewal of the strife in 1665. Holland lost her colonies in North America; but one of her fleets under De Ruyter penetrated up the Thames River almost to London and did incalculable damage to England's shipping, so a second peace was wrung from the startled Englishmen (1667). A year later Holland interfered in the war between Sweden and Denmark and by some vigorous sea-fighting compelled Sweden to accept her proposals of peace. For a moment the "Seven United Provinces" stood at the summit of their power, the dictators of the North.

The man who had led Holland to this height of influence and renown, was John De Witt, chief of the celebrated family of that name. Unfortunately it was he also who brought his country to the very verge of destruction. His attitude and that of the Dutch people in general was construed as an insult by the new "rising sun" in France, the youthful monarch Louis XIV. Or rather, to put it more broadly, the very existence of Holland, a republic, was felt as an insult by every sovereign of Europe. Here were these "mere tradesfolk" assuming airs of equality and even of superiority toward the most eminent royal houses. When in 1672, Louis suddenly proclaimed himself offended and without warning hurled his armies upon Holland, not a voice was raised in her favor. The English, mindful of recent injuries rather than more recent treaties, sent their fleet to join France in the attack.

Once more as in their memorable war with Spain, the Dutch stood alone, friendless and apparently overwhelmingly outnumbered. But now their cause seemed even more hopeless than before, because they were wholly unprepared for an attack by land. De Witt had persisted in courting alliance with France, in trusting upon Louis's friendship. No precautions had been taken against attack; the invading Frenchmen found their work at first a mere pleasure trip, a plundering expedition amid a helpless people. The infuriated Dutchmen cried out that De Witt was a traitor, that he had expected, nay invited this disaster. He and his brother Cornelis were slain by a mob in the streets of The Hague, savagely beaten and trampled almost out of recognition as human forms.

The martyrdom of these two pure and high-souled patriots left the way open for the return to power of the princes of Orange. The young heir of the house, now grown to manhood, was at once made Stadtholder as William III. In fact

it was his partisans who had slain the De Witts, nor was the prince himself ever wholly cleared of complicity in the crime.

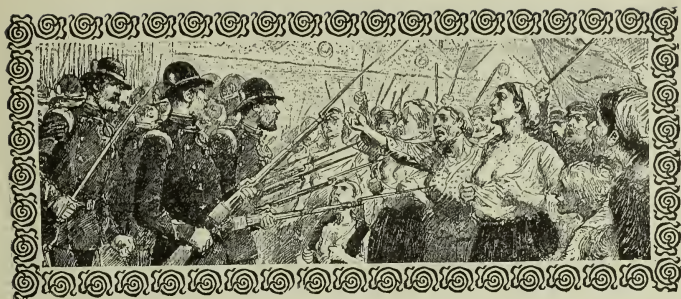
His sudden appearance at the head of affairs roused the people from the despair into which they had been thrown by Louis's sudden attack. Half the country was already in French hands; but Amsterdam set example to the remainder by cutting her dykes, flooding her own surrounding fields, and so opposing a barrier of water to the enemy's advance. Yet so desperate seemed the situation that William and the States-General, finding every overture for peace rejected, discussed in solemn council the necessity of destroying all the dykes, taking the entire nation on board their ships and sailing away to their empire in the East—leaving a drowned land to an insatiable foe.

Fortunately this extreme of heroism was not demanded of them. The partial flooding of the land by Amsterdam and other cities, sufficed to check Louis's progress. Moreover, on the checkerboard of European politics, the Hapsburg rulers of Germany and Spain seeing their rival the French king apparently on the point of subduing Holland, lent their aid to the very land that had broken down their ancient supremacy. William also secured the friendship of England by marrying Mary, the king's niece (1677). Against this array, France fell back, baffled. Holland was once more saved by a prince of the house of Orange.

From that time William III devoted his life to his celebrated strife against King Louis. Again and again he managed to draw Europe into an alliance against France. In 1689 he became King of England; and that high office also he employed to defeat Louis. In the end he was successful. At the time of William's death (1702), England, the United Provinces, and the German Empire were attacking Louis in the "War of the Spanish Succession"; the towering might of France was already crumbling.

William left no nearer heir than a youthful cousin, so the Provinces elected no new Stadtholder to succeed him. Once more the States-General took entire charge of the government. Its members resolutely continued William's plans for war with France; and their troops took a prominent part in those great victories of Blenheim, Ramillies and Malplaquet, for which England is so apt to claim entire credit.

Yet the Provinces were becoming exhausted both in men and money. These perpetual wars were at last sapping their vitality beyond its power to recuperate. England was crowding them from the ocean; their trade was languishing. When in 1712 the English queen suddenly decided to make peace with France, the Provinces had no choice but to acquiesce in the arrangement. They accepted what award the mightier disputants chose to assign them, and sank back from the high rank which they had so briefly yet heroically maintained among the "Greatest Nations."

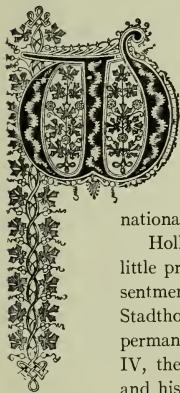


THE BELGIAN LABOR STRIKE

Chapter VII

LATER HISTORY OF THE NETHERLANDS

[*Authorities:* As before, also Juste, "The Belgic Revolution"; Grattan, "The Belgian Revolution"; Alison, "History of Europe"; Schlosser, "History of the Eighteenth Century."]



WHAT remains to be said of the Netherlands may be briefly told. The southern portion, the Spanish or as they had come to be called, the Austrian Netherlands, had been the main battle ground between Louis XIV and the European coalition. The land lay wasted and desolate. Holland, impoverished and exhausted, was in little better condition. Peace slowly restored both regions to a material prosperity, but not to that high national pride and vigor which had once made them famous.

Holland joined in the war of 1744 against France and lost what little prestige remained to her. The people, in an outbreak of resentment against their feeble government, not only restored the Stadtholdership to the house of Orange (1747), but declared it a permanent office and hereditary in the family forever. William IV, the Stadtholder thus appointed, was a nephew of William III; and his patriotism and ability seemed to promise him worthy of the renowned race from which he sprang. But his sudden death in 1751 left his rank to an infant son, William V, so that the difficult duties of the position fell into the hands of regents.

The first of these was the child's mother, Anne, a daughter of King George II of England; and after her death came the Duke of Brunswick, who was also intimately allied with the English royal house. The people of Holland felt that their

interests were deliberately sacrificed to those of their formidable commercial rival. Dutch ships were openly seized by the British. Dutch colonies were appropriated, and finally in 1780 England, declaring war upon the helpless and wholly unready Provinces, seized what was left of their trade and their colonial empire. Only a few small districts in the farthest East remained to remind Holland of the vast regions she had once possessed.

By this time the young Stadtholder, William V, had grown to manhood; but matters failed to improve under his guidance. The people grew more discontented and rebellious; Prussian troops were loaned to William to strengthen his position; and the chiefs of the opposition or republican party were compelled to flee from the country. William became practically as absolute a sovereign as any of the little German princes along his borders (1787).

Then came the French Revolution. Already its spirit had invaded Holland. It had inspired the party in rebellion against William V. It roused the Belgians, and in 1789 they engaged in a short but fierce revolt against Austria. This was suppressed the following year, but it is no wonder that neither in Belgium nor Holland was there much desire to resist the advance of the French when the aroused revolutionists burst upon them proclaiming freedom with the sword, reasserting those doctrines of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" which the Netherland burghers themselves had been the first to champion in the face of monarchical Europe.

The Austrians were driven out of Belgium by the French victory at Jemappes (1792), and the land was annexed to France. Holland resisted longer; yet many Dutchmen fought on the side of the invaders; and, aided by the severity of the winter—the "French winter" it was called by the Hollanders—General Pichegru took possession of the land in 1795.

William V fled to England. The republican party among the Dutch formed an alliance with the Frenchmen, welcomed them as liberators, and formed a new government under a new constitution. Holland became the "Batavian Republic." The name was an empty form which did not long survive. In reality the land was a mere dependency of France, savagely tyrannized over by the French deputies sent to "advise" its government. In 1806, Napoleon converted it into a "Kingdom of Holland" for his brother Louis; and in 1810 it was formally incorporated, as the southern Netherlands had previously been, in the rapidly expanding empire of France.

The downfall of Napoleon in his Russian campaign found the Dutch common people as eager as the Germans to throw off a yoke which had become intolerable. They bore a valiant part in the struggles of 1813-14, and in the final campaign of Waterloo. The Stadtholder William V had died in exile; but his son, another William, returned from England to lead his people in their struggle. He was

received with a warm affection that forgot former causes of dispute and remembered only his race, the great race of Orange, and its long devotion to the cause of Holland. The nation had been surfeited with republican forms of government; the stadtholdership was abolished; William was eagerly invited to become a king and in March, 1814, was solemnly inaugurated as King William I.

In the general rearrangement of European affairs undertaken by the Congress of Vienna in 1814-15, it was universally agreed that this new "Kingdom of Holland" should not only be accepted but enlarged, so that it might become a real restraint upon France's northern border. Austria, receiving compensation elsewhere, surrendered its outworn claim upon Belgium; and once more after the lapse of centuries all the low countries were reunited into a single state, the "Kingdom of the Netherlands," under the sovereignty of William I, no longer Prince of Orange, but King of the Netherlands.

This ill-advised union of Belgium and Holland lasted only fifteen years. It had indeed been hopeless from the beginning, a purely geographical alliance which took no account of the differences of religion and race, nor of the even keener antagonisms roused by centuries of alienation and war. Nobody really desired the union except a few purblind diplomats and the ambitious King William. The Dutch accepted it with hesitation. The Belgians were not consulted at all. They felt themselves treated as a conquered and dependent people; and when the French revolution of 1830 gave them the impulse and opportunity, they rushed immediately to arms and proclaimed their independence.

The Dutch however, had become proud of their superior position in the union; they would not lightly relinquish it. King William, grown old and narrow, was haughty and uncompromising. A Dutch army attacked Brussels and was vigorously resisted by the citizens. There were four days of fighting in the streets. Barricade after barricade was stormed by the Dutch troops, but always there were others beyond, and at length the invaders were compelled to retreat. Belgian independence had been sealed in blood.

Everywhere throughout the country the people rose in arms. The Dutch garrisons were driven out. The most notable struggle was in Antwerp, where the Dutch troops, driven from the streets, took possession of the citadel and bombarded the city they were supposed to be protecting. Both France and England intervened. If Belgium was so determined on independence, the great Powers would no longer stand as sponsors for the union they had created. So the Netherlands were again declared divided. Belgium was allowed to select a king of its own from the royal families of Europe, and after negotiation with two or three candidates conferred the dignity upon a German prince, Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. Lines of demarcation between Belgium and Holland were then agreed to by the Powers, though naturally the boundaries assigned satisfied neither of the belligerent little

states. The new king, Leopold, had scarcely entered his new kingdom when an army of nearly eighty thousand Dutch troops poured into it. William of Holland had decided to defy Europe and reassert his sovereignty (1831). The astonished Belgians were defeated in two slight battles. Leopold appealed to France and England for aid; and a French army entered Belgium, while a British fleet descended upon the coast of Holland. Confronted by such overwhelming odds, King William yielded as ungraciously as possible, disputing all the negotiations, which were only finally completed in 1839.

Belgium thus stands as a sort of god-child to the neighboring great Powers, fostered by their care. King Leopold proved a model constitutional sovereign, undertaking seriously and successfully the duties of his position. His death in 1865 was deeply mourned by his people, and his son, King Leopold II, was enabled to begin his reign under the most favorable auspices. Unfortunately he devoted himself less to the guidance of his country than to a career of pleasure and the accumulation of enormous wealth. A large portion of central Africa was by a conference of the European Powers conferred upon Belgium for development, or rather upon King Leopold; and hideous tales have reached the world, of horrors inflicted upon the natives. In 1908 this region was formally annexed to Belgium by treaty.

Belgium during King Leopold II's reign progressed rapidly, not because of this unkingly king; but without him. The political struggles of the lower classes have been desperate; and by degrees they have secured the extension of the right of suffrage until it is now nearly universal. Unduly repressed and partly ignored, the laborers many of them turned socialists; and labor strikes, tumults, riots and even bloody insurrections frequently darkened Belgium's path of commercial prosperity.

King Leopold died in December of 1909, and even in his death left behind another scandal. He had bequeathed his enormous and ill-gotten wealth to gay friends or to state institutions, and so far as possible kept it from his own children. Two of his daughters who had long broken away from him brought suits in the courts to recover his fortune; and thus the details of the unkingly fashion in which it had been expended were given to the public.

The new king, Leopold's son Albert I, began his reign amid the high hopes of his people, who knew that he had disapproved his father's courses, and that he had often shown himself a warm friend to all his people and especially to the laboring classes. Hence his influence was confidently expected for reform. Under the Belgium system of allowing extra votes to men of property and education, the working classes have been unable to assert themselves. At length, in 1912, when the elections once more confirmed in power the conservative upper classes, the laborers prepared a great political strike. This

profound upheaval shook Belgium to its center in 1913; but young King Albert still struggles for his people and still retains their confidence.

In Holland meanwhile there has been far greater national sentiment and greater unity of feeling; hence her course has been one of peace and progress. King William I abdicated in 1840, soon after he had been finally compelled to consent to the formal release of Belgium. His son, William II, ruled until 1849, when he was succeeded by his son, William III. This king, grown old and feeble minded, died in 1890 without male heirs, so that the throne passed to his ten-year-old daughter Wilhelmina. For several years the child's mother ruled as regent, but in 1898 Wilhelmina assumed full sovereignty amid the congratulations of all nations. She soon selected a husband suited to her taste, a dashing young Prussian officer, Duke Henry of Mecklenburg. The choice was approved by her devoted people; Duke Henry was created a general, and also "Prince of the Netherlands," and in 1901 the happy pair were wedded with splendid ceremonies at The Hague. Rumor has since represented them as proving less congenial to each other than their subjects hoped. A daughter was born to the queen in 1909, and became the heiress of her mother's crown.

Wilhelmina makes an excellent ruler; she is devoted to her people, and they to her. She has also brought her country into note as the seat of the International Peace Conference, which held its first meeting at The Hague in 1899, and has since by the young queen's invitation made her capital its home. A second great Peace Conference was held there in 1907, on which occasion a splendid Palace of Peace, gift of Andrew Carnegie, was erected as a permanent home for the tribunal.

Only one shadow has recently disturbed the quiet of this sturdy little kingdom. The government in 1912 planned to devote large sums of money to making the port of Flushing a great naval fortress. This was felt by England to be a sign of German influence. Germany was supposedly eager to have the Dutch seacoast made strong against English ships, while the land frontier bordering on Germany itself lay wholly undefended. A similar condition had been noted in Belgium the year before when France and Germany had been at quarrel and Belgium was shown to be unprepared to prevent Germany from invading and using her territory as a basis of attack on France. Hence France and England have both accused the Netherlands of "Germanizing" tendencies. Holland has answered by protesting strongly her unalterable resolve to remain wholly independent; and Belgium, in 1913, increased her army budget so that she now stands ready to defend her hard-won territory against all intruders. Thus even on these two tiny states is laid the heavy burden of Europe's military policy.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE NETHERLANDS

B.C. 58—Cæsar begins the conquest of the Belgæ and Nervii. A.D. 28—Roman conquest of Frisia. 70—Civilis heads a Batavian rebellion. 280(?)—Invasion of the Franks. 481(?)—Clovis leads the Franks out of the Netherlands. 622—Dagobert reasserts Frankish dominion and founds the first Christian Church at Utrecht. 692—Pepin conquers King Radbod. 695—Willibrod made first Bishop of Utrecht. 755—Bishop Boniface martyred. 785—Charlemagne begins the conquest of the Frisians. 843—Treaty of Verdun includes the Netherlands in Lotharingia. 864—Baldwin of the Iron Arm weds the Emperor's daughter and becomes Count of Flanders; his domain is attached to France. 880—The rest of the Netherlands annexed to Germany. 911—Lorraine added to France. 923—Dirk I rules as first Count of Holland. 1036—Baldwin V makes Flanders practically independent. 1061—Floris I of Holland overthrown by the Bishop of Utrecht; Holland saved by Robert of Flanders. 1127—Assassination of Charles of Flanders and revolution of the people of Bruges; rise of the communes. 1248—William of Holland made Emperor of Germany. 1301—Philip of France confiscates Flanders. 1302—The "Bruges Matins"; Battle of Courtrai. 1335—The Flemish cities under Jacques Van Artevelde dragged into the Hundred Years' War between France and England. 1345—Death of Van Artevelde; supremacy of Ghent. 1382—Overthrow of Philip Van Artevelde and the Communes at Roosebeke. 1384—Flanders passes to the house of Burgundy. 1417—Death of William VI of Holland and accession of Countess Jacqueline. 1428—Jacqueline transfers her authority to Philip of Burgundy. 1436—Death of Jacqueline; war of Burgundy with England. 1477—Death of Charles the Bold leaves the Netherlands to his daughter Mary; the "Great Privilege" granted to the citizens. 1482—Death of Mary; Maximilian, her husband, imprisoned by the Brugeois. 1492—The Netherlands completely subjugated by Maximilian. 1515—Charles V made Count of Flanders and Holland, etc. 1540—Charles crushes Ghent for its rebellion. 1550—He establishes the Spanish Inquisition in the Netherlands. 1555—Charles abdicates to his son, Philip II of Spain. 1559—Philip withdraws to Spain, Margaret of Parma regent. 1566—The "beggars" present their petition; image-breaking furor. 1567—Alva reaches the Netherlands; William of Orange and many patriots flee; the "Council of Blood." 1568—Execution of Egmont and Horn; William of Orange begins the Eighty Years' War. 1572—Alva's tyranny drives even Brussels to revolt; the "sea-beggars" seize Briel; the burghers rise everywhere against Spain. 1573—Siege and sack of Haarlem; Alva recalled to Spain. 1574—Siege of Leyden; its rescue; University of Leyden founded. 1576—The "Spanish Fury" at Antwerp; Don John of Austria arranges a truce. 1580—The northern provinces

declare their independence. 1581—They offer the sovereignty to William of Orange; he proffers it to Anjou; union of the "Seven Provinces." 1583—The "French Fury" at Antwerp; Anjou flees to France. 1584—Assassination of William of Orange. 1585—Parma captures Antwerp; final break between the northern and southern provinces; Leicester leads an English army to Holland's help. 1591—Maurice of Orange begins his victorious career. 1596—Founding of the Dutch East India Company. 1598—The "Spanish Netherlands" conferred on Albert and Isabella of Austria. 1605—Destruction of the Spanish Indian fleet off Malacca; establishment of Holland's supremacy in the East. 1609—Truce with Spain. 1619—Maurice executes the patriot Barneveldt. 1621—War with Spain re-opens. 1624—Founding of New Amsterdam in America. 1628—Piet Hein captures the Spanish silver fleet. 1637—The tulip mania. 1639—Admiral Tromp destroys the Spanish sea-power. 1648—Final peace with Spain. 1652-4—First great naval war with England. 1665—Second naval war. 1667—The Dutch burn the Thames shipping; peace with England. 1672—Louis XIV invades Holland; England joins him; murder of the De Witts; William III made Stadtholder; opening of the dykes. 1689—William becomes King of England; forms various coalitions against Louis XIV. 1702-9—Victories of Marlborough. 1713—Treaty of Utrecht leaves Holland exhausted. 1747—William IV made hereditary Stadtholder. 1780—England declares war and seizes Holland's colonial possessions. 1787—Revolt in Holland suppressed by William V. 1789—Rebellion in Belgium against the Austrians. 1792—French win the victory of Jemappes and annex Belgium. 1794-5—French overrun Holland; they aid in its reorganization as the "Batavian Republic." 1806—Napoleon creates a "Kingdom of Holland" for Louis Bonaparte. 1810—Holland annexed to the French empire. 1813—Uprising against the French. 1814—William of Orange made king by his people; Belgium and Holland united as the Kingdom of the Netherlands. 1830—Revolt of Belgium; battle in Brussels; Powers accede to Belgian independence. 1831—Leopold of Saxe-Coburg chosen King of Belgium; Dutch troops invade the land; they yield to France and England. 1839—Holland finally assents to Belgian independence. 1865—Leopold II becomes King of Belgium. 1885—He is declared king of the Congo Free State. 1890—William III of Holland succeeded by his child daughter Wilhelmina. 1892—Serious labor riots in Belgium. 1898—Coronation of Queen Wilhelmina. 1899—International Peace Conference at The Hague. 1901—Wedding of Queen Wilhelmina. 1902—Holland proffers her services for peace in the Boer War. 1907—Second Peace Conference held. 1908—Belgium annexes the Congo Free State. 1909—King Leopold II dies and is succeeded by his son, Albert I. 1912—Holland plans a naval fortress at Flushing. 1912-13—The laborers of Belgium enforce a great political strike to secure equal franchise.

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY FOR VOLUME X

Absalon (ahb'sah-lŏn)	Jacqueline (zhahk'lĭn)
Achmet (ahk'mĕt)	Jemappes (zhā-mahp'p')
Ælla (ĕl'lă)	Jotun (yĕr'tŭn)
Angeln (ahng'ĕln)	Kalmar (kahl'mahr)
Anjou (ŏn-zhoo')	Karasi (kah-rah'sĭ)
Anscarius (ăn-skă'rĭ-ŭs)	Karelia (kahr-ă-lĕ'ă)
Arkona (ahr-kŏ'nă)	Khara (kah'rah)
Artevelde (ahr'tă-vĕlt)	Knut (knoot)
Astrakhan (ahs-tră-kahn')	Kossova (kŏs-sŏ'vă)
Axel Hvide (ahk'sĕl-hvĭd')	Leipzig (lĭp'sik)
Azov (ah-zŏv')	Leyden (lĭ'dĕn)
Baghdad (bahg-dahd')	Liege (lĕ-ăzh')
Bajazet (băj-ă-zĕt')	Lille (lĕl)
Bjorn (be-yŏrn')	Louvain (loo'văn)
Batavia (bă-tă'vĭ-ă)	Lund (loond)
Borselen (bŏr'sĕ-lĕn)	Mahmud (mah-mood')
Bouvines (boo-vĕn')	Malkkatoon (mahl-khă'toon)
Brabant (brah'bănt)	Marizza (mah-rĭt'să)
Bruges (brŭ'jĕz)	Mohacs (mŏ-hahch')
Brusa (broo'sah)	Murad (moo'răd)
Buda (boo'dă)	Mustapha (moos'tah-fah)
Canute (kă-noot')	Narva (nahr'vah)
Caramania (kah-rah-mahn'ĭ-ă)	Nymwegen (nĕm-wă'gĕn)
Cerestes (kă-rĕs'tĕz)	Osman (ŏs-mahn')
Civilis (sĭ-vĭ'lĭs)	Oxenstjerna (ŏks'ĕn stĕr-nă)
Colberg (kŏl'berg)	Pultowa (pŭl-tow'ă)
Copenhagen (kŏ'pĕn-hă'gĕn)	Ragnar Lodbrok (rahg'năr-lŏd'-brŏk)
Courtrai (koor'tră)	Roosebeke (roos'bek)
Djen (jĕn)	Rugen (ruĕ'gĕn)
Dordrecht (dort'rĕkt)	Saoudji (sah-ood'jĭ)
Drusus (droo'sŭs)	Scania (skah'nĕ-ă)
Ertoghrul (ĕr-tŏg'ghrŭl)	Schleswig-Holstein (shlăs'wĕk-hŏl'-stĭn)
Fehrbellin (fair-bĕl-lĕn')	Selim (sĕ'lĭm)
Fjord (fe-yŏrd')	Sinope (sĭn-ŏ'-pĕ)
Frederikshald (frĕd'ĕr-ĭks-hahld)	Sweyn (swăn)
Friesland (frĕz'lănd)	Szigeth (sĕ'gĕt)
Gallipoli (găl-lĭp'ŏ-lĭ)	Tabriz (tah-brĕz')
Ghent (gĕnt)	Trebizond (trĕb'ĭ-zŏnd)
Gravelines (grahv-lĕn')	Ukraine (ŭ'krăn)
Guntz (guĕnts)	Upsala (up-sah'lah)
Haarlem (hahr'lĕm)	Waldemar (wŏl'dĕ-mahr)
Hainault (hă-nŏ')	Wallachia (wŏl-lă'kĭ-ă)
Housein (hoo-sĭn')	Wisby (wĭz'bĭ)
Hunyadi (hoon'yŏd-ĕ)	Yngling (ĕng'lĭng)
Iconium (ĭ-cŏ'nĭ-ŭm)	Zealand (zĕ'lănd)
Idstedt (ĭd'stĕt)	
Ingermanland (ĭn'gĕr-măn-land)	

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